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Contact: Michael Field
(562) 985-8371
michael.field@csulb.edu

or Lee Adams
(562) 985-1822
lee.adams@csulb.edu

MR. SULU BRINGS BIG ISSUES DOWN TO EARTH

~ Noted Actor and Activist Shares Insight on His Life and Career ~

LONG BEACH, CA – George Takei will be sharing memories and insights from his extraordinary life on November 12 at 8:00 at the Carpenter Center on the campus of Cal State Long Beach. This speaking engagement is part of our Wit and Wisdom series.

To some, he will remain best known for his portrayal of Mr. Sulu in both the Star Trek TV series and movie franchise, but his roles as social activist and social media super-star are how many know him today.

Takei's rise as a social media giant is an interesting chapter in his nothing-short-of-fantastical life. He has penned books on his wildly popular social media presence, has over 8.9 million "likes" on Facebook, was awarded the Shorty Award for Distinguished Achievement in Internet Culture, has 1.7 million followers on Twitter, and expanded his reach even further with the 2015 debut of the YouTube reality series *It Takes Two*, with husband, Brad Takei. *Cosmopolitan Magazine* named Takei "One of the Internet's 50 Most Fascinating People." The 2014 documentary *To Be Takei*, a Jennifer M. Kroot film on George's life, premiered at the Sundance Film Festival, and was later released in select theatres across North America.

Though his hand prints are on display in front of the former Grauman's Chinese Theater and his star positioned on Hollywood's Walk of Fame, his childhood was less-than-celebrated yet just as cinematic. Takei, along with approximately 120,000 other Japanese Americans, spent years in internment camps at the onset of WWII. He viewed much of his childhood from behind barbed-wire. That experience has informed his activism, and his speaking engagements present a wonderful forum for him to share that experience, as well as his thoughts on myriad other human rights issues, including his staunch advocacy for the LGBTQ community.

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Takei took his experience in the internment camps and brought it to the boards with the Broadway musical *Allegiance*, in which he costarred with the Tony Award winning Lea Salonga. The play is loosely based on Takei's memories of the camps, and centers on themes of loyalty, heroism and love. *Allegiance* made its debut last year at the Old Globe in San Diego. That production was filmed, and *George Takei's Allegiance: The Broadway Musical on the Big Screen* will play at select theatres throughout the country Dec. 13. In addition to the full musical, the screening will also incorporate behind-the-scenes footage and interviews with the show's creators and cast members.

Takei serves as chair of the council of governors of East West Players, the nation's foremost Asian Pacific American theater. He is also a member of the Human Rights Campaign, the largest national lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender political organization. Takei is Chairman Emeritus of the Japanese American National Museum's Board of Trustees; a member of the US-Japan Bridging Foundation Board of Directors; and served on the Board of the Japan-United States Friendship Commission under President Bill Clinton. In recognition of his contribution to the Japan-United States relationship, in 2004, Takei was conferred with the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Rosette, by His Majesty, the Emperor of Japan.

As an author, Takei's has written *To the Stars* (his autobiography), *Oh Myyy! There Goes The Internet*, and its sequel, *Lions And Tigers And Bears: The Internet Strikes Back*. The latter two books explore his forays on social media and the Internet, earning placement on the Amazon e-book and paperback best-seller lists.

Takei and his husband, Brad, were married at the Japanese American National Museum on September 14, 2008. The Takeis reside in Los Angeles, California.

An Evening with George Takei
Carpenter Performing Arts Center * 6200 E Atherton Street, Long Beach, CA 90815
Saturday, November 12 @ 8 p.m.

Single tickets: \$60/\$53 for subscribers. For tickets or more information, visit CarpenterArts.org or call the Carpenter Center Ticket Office at (562) 985-7000. The Wit and Wisdom series is made possible in part by Season Media Partner KPCC 89.3-FM.

ABOUT THE CARPENTER CENTER

Founded in 1994, the Carpenter Performing Arts Center seats 1,062 patrons. The Center is named after pop music duo Richard and Karen Carpenter, who both attended California State University, Long Beach. For more than 20 years, the Carpenter Center has brought hundreds of professional performances to the CSULB campus. Both established stars and the gifted talent of the future have delighted Carpenter Center audiences with music, dance, comedy and much more.

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